

WE CLAIM:

1. A composition comprising a hydrogel matrix and a particulate magnetic material within said matrix.
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2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said matrix is derived from gelatinized starch granules.
3. A composition according to claim 2 in which said granules comprise a framework of amylopectin from which amylose chains have been expelled.
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4. A composition according to claim 3 wherein said particulate material is super paramagnetic.
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5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein said matrix is permeable and has accessible interior surfaces defining a cage for physical or chemical entrapment of antigens or antibodies.
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6. In an immunoseparation process employing an immuno-reactant, the improvement wherein the immuno-reactant is entrapped in a composition as defined in claim 1.
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7. In a diagnostic method in which a diagnostic agent is supported in a support material, the improvement wherein the support material is a composition as defined in claim 1.
8. A diagnostic kit comprising a diagnostic agent supported in a composition as defined in claim 1.

9. An immunoseparation device comprising an immuno-reactant entrapped in a composition as defined in claim 1.
10. A xerogel of the composition of claim 1.